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## Inside

- Letters to the editor 2
- EAF-type operations surge in Kosovo 2
- Clinton applauds B-2 team 3
- Joan Jett on entertainment 3

## NEWSBYTES

### U.S. aircraft return fire

Responding in self-defense, U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcons and F-15E Strike Eagles dropped GBU-12 precision guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery sites southeast of Mosul June 15.

The Operation Northern Watch aircraft detected Iraqi radar and were fired upon by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery between noon and 1:30 p.m. Iraqi time.

All coalition aircraft departed the area safely. Damage to Iraqi forces is currently being assessed.

### Crash claims NCO

A master sergeant assigned to Kadena's 353rd Special Operations Group died June 10 as a result of injuries sustained in the June 1 crash of an American Airlines jet in Little Rock, Ark.

Master Sgt. Jeffery A. Stewart, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the 353rd Maintenance Squadron's turbo propulsion shop, died at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock.

He was on board the aircraft en route to an Air Force training course. He had been stationed at Kadena since April 1996.

### Dyess airmen punished

Five Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, airmen have received non-judicial punishment for their roles in the mistreatment of prisoners at the base confinement facility last year. The airmen, ranging in rank from senior airman to captain, were facing possible court-martial charges for mistreating or allowing the maltreatment of prisoners in the Dyess jail.

### New ACC commander

Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart became the fourth commander of Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., June 11, succeeding Gen. Richard E. Hawley, who retired after 35 years of service.

## Bombing ends, not Stop-Loss

By Senior Master Sgt.  
Jim Katzaman

WASHINGTON — Suspension of Operation Allied Force's bombing operations will not immediately affect the Stop-Loss program that began June 15 halting the loss of airmen from critical career fields.

Even though bombs have stopped falling and peacekeepers are moving into Kosovo, according to Air Force officials, allied bombers and fighters stand ready to resume attacks if Yugoslav authorities violate cease-fire terms.

Besides having their finger on the trigger, allied air forces also have to support expanding Shining Hope humanitarian operations as Kosovar refugees return home.

If the bombing suspension holds and as humanitarian relief missions stabilize, the Air Force will reassess the Stop-Loss program, according to Col. Lynn Pratt, chief of the Air

**continued on Page 4**



Photo by Sgt. Len Butler

Senior Airman Samuel J. Terrill performs an ultrasonic inspection of an F-16 Fighting Falcon landing strut. Terrill hopes to land one of the 67 full-time maintenance positions available as a result of the 149th Fighter Wing's transition from a general-purpose fighter unit to a training wing.

■ **Pilots can't get out yet?** Not to worry -- commercial airlines are holding seats for pilots caught up in the program. See Page 4

## Force-shaping program closes

WASHINGTON — Use of force-shaping programs, such as early retirement and active-duty service commitment waivers, has reduced officer strength in some health professions specialties so successfully that goals for this fiscal year are already met. As a result, the Air Force will remove certain specialties from the eligibility list.

Effective immediately, nurses in five Air Force specialties will no longer be eligible for early retirement; active-duty service commitment, time-in-grade and commissioned service time waivers; and the special line transfer program.

These specialties are women's health care nurse practitioners (AFSC 46NXXA), pediatric nurse practitioners (46NXXB), critical care nurses (46NXXE), obstetrical nurses (46NXXG) and operating room nurses (46SXX). The only exceptions will be for nurse majors who are twice deferred and not selectively continued. They will be allowed to apply for early retirement in lieu of separation.

Under the current phase of the force-shaping program, 11 medical corps specialties have been eligible to apply for active duty service commitment and time-in-grade waivers in or

**continued on Page 4**



## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

## Army view

I am in the Army and work for the Air Force supporting Operation Allied Force. ...I read Online News each week and am appalled at the constant complaining by all ranks about Stop-Loss. ...Most letters that complain about Stop-Loss come from the United States. This is a war! ...Take a shower every third day, carry a weapon everywhere you go, eat MREs at least once a day, hope nobody shells your position and walk around in mud so thick it covers your boots. That will change your attitude. ...It's called service before self, integrity and excellence in all you do. These Air Force core values apply to all service members, and I believe them as well as my Army values. To arm-chair warriors sitting home complaining about Stop-Loss, suck it up, drive on and keep on being the best damn Air Force the world has ever known.

**SGT Mark Parr**  
*Aviano Air Base, Italy*

## As you were!

This is an air war. That's why the other services haven't implemented Stop-Loss. Our core values mean living by that contract you signed,

understanding it takes priority over the ones you signed later or were going to sign and doing the best you can while you're here. No one will make you stay when you're no longer needed. Those of us who are NCOs now, especially those affected by Stop-Loss (yes, I am), can whine. Or we can remember that we are in service, that the last word of our title is still sergeant, and that we have a responsibility to our Air Force, our core values and our superiors and subordinates alike.

**Tess Ailshire**  
*Kelly AFB, Texas*

## I see your point

Individuals unhappy with Stop-Loss have valid concerns. It takes a lot of effort and planning to transition from the military to civilian sector. There are job interviews to attend, resumes to send and arrangements to relocate to a civilian job. I can see a person, who has spent the last year striving to land a good job on the outside, being angry having to tell a new employer he can't take that job because of the Air Force's poor planning.

**Staff Sgt. Eric J. Ritchie**  
*MacDill AFB, Fla.*

# EAF-type operations surge in Kosovo

By Maj. Gen. Donald Cook

Since the end of the Gulf War, the National Command Authority has repeatedly used aerospace power as a key tool in executing its national security strategy of global engagement. While effective in meeting objectives, there's been a price for Air Force people in terms of a high personnel tempo and repeated tours away from loved ones.

Thousands of Air Force professionals have performed such day-to-day, steady-state taskings in operations like Northern Watch and Southern Watch. Now in Kosovo, thousands more are performing expeditionary operations at a new level: surge operations.

Since the Air Force leadership announced we were moving to stand up the Expeditionary Aerospace Force by Jan. 1, 2000, the air staff and the major commands have worked diligently to bring the EAF concept to reality.

However, operations in Kosovo have required the Air Force to surge beyond

normal day-to-day, steady-state levels. We are clearly at force levels that exceed the operational percentages of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and Vietnam.

Does that mean that the EAF concept is dead? Clearly not! Just as we have met our day-to-day, steady-state requirements, the Air Force is currently conducting expeditionary operations at more than 55 locations around the world.

So, what does this mean for implementing the Aerospace Expeditionary Force schedule by 2000? It is clear that current operations in Kosovo have affected the availability of many units to transition into the AEF schedule that was to begin in October. It is also clear that surge operations in Kosovo, combined with force drawdowns and budget reductions, have affected overall sustainment of the force.

As we transition from surge operations back to a steady-state AEF schedule, the Air Force will first have to go through a reconstitution process for the first time in its history. Reconstitution means restoring our equipment and people to desired readiness levels and conditions, and it will take several months and more money to reconstitute the

force, depending on how much of and how long a unit has been deployed. Air Force leaders recognize the importance of our mission in Kosovo and elsewhere, but equally understand the burden on our people and the tools of their profession.

As such, a massive effort is under way at the Air Staff and major commands to determine the best way to restore our capabilities-based expeditionary force back to a steady state using two AEFs. We are also examining the best way to move into the AEF schedule.

As our people continue to operate in harm's way on several fronts and the unsung maintainers, security forces, civil engineers and other combat supporters ensure our collective success with their untiring effort, it is important to recognize that we are the EAF, right here and now.

Reconstitution planning is well under way, and groundwork is being laid to transition to the more predictable and stable AEF rotation schedule after a period to rest and reconstitute the force.

We'll report to you, the total force, on our revised EAF stand-up schedule as soon as we have the answer.

*General Cook is the director for EAF implementation at the Pentagon.*



# President applauds B-2 team

By Airman 1st Class Ryan Steinbach

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo.

— President Bill Clinton visited Whiteman June 11 to congratulate air crews, support people and families who supported operations over the Balkans during the Kosovo crisis.

He recognized 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing members (509ers) for participating in the conflict from the heartland of America, a feat no other aircraft had performed before.

Part of Noble Anvil, the U.S. component of NATO's Operation Allied Force, aircrews flew the B-2 Spirit bomber on round-trip, 30-hour missions from Missouri over the Balkans. The aircraft flew less than 1 percent of the missions but dropped 11 percent of the bombing load.

"The pilots, the crews, the weaponeers, the maintenance personnel and everyone who is part of the B-2 team stationed at Whiteman should take special pride in proving what a truly remarkable aircraft can do," Mr. Clinton said to the flag-waving crowd. "As far as we know, they still don't know you were there."

During the president's brief visit, he greeted Whiteman's senior military and local community leaders and toured the B-2 Spirit bomber. He also met with various members of the base community and their families before addressing a crowd of 509ers. Various senators, congressmen and a swarm of local and national media were on hand to hear the president's message proclaiming victory in Kosovo for the nation and the B-2.

The president told 509ers to be proud of the weapon system they support because they proved "beyond the shadow of a doubt, the B-2 is every bit the technological marvel it was



*President Clinton holds Katie Grime, daughter of 1st Lt. Paul and Tracy Grime, 509th Mission Support Squadron. Clinton visited Whiteman June 11 to applaud the B-2 team for a job well done in the Kosovo crisis.*

meant to be."

In addition to declaring Kosovo a victory of technology, Mr. Clinton also said it was a victory for diversity. He pointed to the people of Whiteman to make his point.

"I invite the people of this world today who say that people cannot get along across racial and ethnic and religious lines to have a good look at the United States military, to have a good look at the United States Air Force in this hangar today," he said.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Joan Jett reflects Hollywood, Entertainment success

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

WASHINGTON — In order for rock singer Joan Jett to meet the "Force" in Europe, going through "Hollywood" was her first stop.

Helping Jett and her band, the Blackhearts, was Maj. Denise Hollywood, a member of the Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Office that takes care of seven entertainment circuits around the world.

When Hollywood took the group to perform at Gioia del Colle Air Base, Italy, she had high hopes that airmen serving in the Mediterranean and Balkan regions in Operation Allied Force would enjoy the show as much as past visits to the region by former pro basketball stars Artis Gilmore, Dan Roundfield and Randy Smith, and the Los Angeles Lakers Cheerleaders.

The concert was a success, and the United Services Organization came shining through, just as it did in the glory days that made Bob Hope famous. But as the USO remains a household name for airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines abroad, its claim to fame would not exist if not for people like Major Hollywood and her role behind the scenes with the Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Office.

"We are the logistics leg for the USO providing celebrity recruitment and production functions," said Major Hollywood, the senior armed forces entertainment manager. "AFPEO and USO are partners in providing entertainment to military troops and their families deployed around the world."

The major, Marine Capt. Will Rosser, Navy Lt. Andy Shough and John Field manage the seven entertainment circuits. Also on the staff, Staff Sgt. Ryan Lewis and Brenda Gray provide the administrative support under Air Force Col. Donna Rosa and Mike Wellert. Together they are the liaisons for the USO, making sure Operations Allied Entertainment keeps airmen morale high.

Before athletes step on the court, before Joan Jett plays on stage, before Lakers cheerleaders do a dance, Major Hollywood and company make moves behind the scenes, square away the particulars.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Aviano airmen sweep away protest debris

By Senior Airman Heather Columbo

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — People fight for peace in many different ways. Ten Aviano members helped the fight for peace June 7 by walking along the Aviano-Pordenone Highway with trash bags in hand.

Over 10,000 demonstrators showed up at Aviano's flight line main gate June 6 in the largest protest since Operation Allied Force began March 24. While the protest didn't affect much of the on-base property, the demonstrators had a large impact off base. Many of the businesses near Aviano had graffiti painted on them and streets were littered with trash.

At one of the main gathering places for the protesters, four first sergeants and their troops spread out across the area and picked up trash. By the time they were finished, according to Master Sgt. Jim Dunaway, 621st Air Mobility Support Group first sergeant, they had collected about 50 bags of trash.

The clean-up was a goodwill gesture to show the local Italian community that base members don't blame them for the protest, one participant said.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*





## Airlines keep promises to aircrews

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

WASHINGTON — As Stop-Loss takes effect around the Air Force, commercial airlines are holding seats for pilots caught in the program.

At a recent Airline/Guard/Reserve Pilot Symposium, Delta and Southwest Airlines announced they will honor scheduled interviews and training dates for those who planned to leave the Air Force but cannot because of Stop-Loss.

The announcement followed an update on the pilot challenges facing today's Air Force, presented by Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel. At that time, he also asked the airlines to honor employment agreements for pilots, active or Reserve, affected by the Presidential Selective Reserve Call-up or Air Force Stop-Loss.

The pilot symposium brought together

major airline chief pilots and senior-level Defense Department leaders for an information exchange and to enhance employer support for Guard and Reserve forces.

Delta airlines Capt. Charles Tutt, director and chief pilot for flight operations, said his airline will "preserve the mutual benefit of the Air Force, Delta Airlines and the Air Force pilots and other personnel who are now or will in the future, seek employment with Delta."

"We welcome the airlines' announcement," said Col. Russell Frasz from the Air Force directorate for personnel in the Pentagon. "The Air Force only implemented Stop Loss to ensure we retained the people needed to meet our current mission requirements and preserve our combat capability. The airlines' announcement shows they recognize the service and commitment of our airmen."

## Bombing ends, not Stop-Loss

continued from Page 1

Force's Military Personnel Policy Division.

"It's too early to tell the exact requirements of the peacekeeping and humanitarian missions," the colonel said. "We will continue to review mission requirements in the Balkans and adjust our manning as necessary."

She noted that the Air Force looked at several options during its two-month review of the need to begin Stop-Loss. This included keeping the number of people prevented from separating or retiring from the service to a minimum and also included a provision to add or delete critical specialties as needed to support evolving operational requirements.

Some people in critical fields are being allowed to leave the service as the Air Force considers waiver requests on a case-by-case basis. As of June 14, the Air Force Personnel Center had approved 54 waiver requests.

Colonel Pratt outlined the general process for how a fictitious Staff Sgt. John Jones, af-

ected by Stop-Loss, can request a waiver. The sergeant, due to separate Aug. 16, hoped to start terminal leave June 25. His replacement is already on board.

Sergeant Jones would submit a request for waiver through local command channels to his major air command. The MAJCOM commander, vice commander or equivalent would then forward the request to the Air Force Personnel Center to decide on the waiver.

While many airmen see a direct connection between the end of Operation Allied Force bombing and the end of Stop-Loss, Colonel Pratt urged caution.

"Stop-Loss was implemented to ensure critical personnel resources were available to meet CINC [commander in chief] operational requirements," she said. "Until we stand down in Kosovo, that need still exists and we must keep the right people at the right place to support the mission."

## Force-shaping program closes

continued from Page 1

der to retire or to apply for separation under the Palace Chase program where officers transfer to the Reserve forces. The Air Force has now closed these programs to orthopedic surgeons (45BX).

The following medical specialties remain eligible: pathology (44DX), emergency services (44EX), general practice (44GX), pediatrics (44KX), dermatology (44SX), allergy (44ZX), ophthalmology (45EX), obstetrics and gynecology (45GX), surgery (45SX) and urology (45UX).

Military personnel flights have received instructions not to accept any more applications for force-shaping programs from officers in the six skills removed from the eligibility list. Applications already submitted to personnel flights will continue to be processed. They will be reviewed case by case, and approved or disapproved based on the merits of each case.

This year, the Air Force has approved 257 additional losses under force-shaping programs. The Air Force Personnel Center has also received 59 applications for the special line transfer program that will allow nurse corps, biomedical sciences corps and medical service corps officers to transfer into line specialties. Most of these are still pending disposition.

Plans are under way to extend programs through fiscal year 2000, but decisions regarding specific programs and eligibility have yet to be made. At this point, however, there is no intention to open force-shaping programs in fiscal year 2000 to enlisted members or line officers.



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